



# Range Review

Wyoming Field Office

PO Box 1148 • Cheyenne, WY 82003

307-432-5600 • FAX 307-432-5598 • [www.nass.usda.gov/wy](http://www.nass.usda.gov/wy)

Issue 2010-03, Released 03/24/10

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

### THANK YOU

to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

*Agriculture Prices  
Cattle on Feed*

*Ag Labor*

*2009 Honey Production*

## CATTLE PRICES UP FROM LAST YEAR

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during February was 120 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 5 points (4 percent) from last month but up 3 points (3 percent) from February 2009. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The **All Livestock Index**, at 115, was down 4 points (3 percent) from January but up 4 points (4 percent) from February 2009. Compared to last month, prices for all livestock were up with the exception of sheep and steers and heifers. Compared to last year, prices for all livestock were up with the exception of lambs. Cow prices averaged \$50.40 per hundredweight, up \$3.80 from January and up \$8.90 from last year. Steer and heifer prices, at \$100.00 per hundredweight, were down \$2.00 from January but up \$6.00 from last year's price. Calf prices averaged \$123.00 per hundredweight, up

\$6.00 from last month and up \$9.00 from last year. Sheep prices, at \$47.40, were down \$2.20 from January but \$15.00 above last year's price. Lamb prices, at \$99.00, were up \$2.00 from January but down \$2.00 from last year.

The **All Crops Index**, at 146, was down 5 points (3 percent) from January and down 12 points (8 percent) from last February. Hay prices were down from both last month and last year. Alfalfa hay, down \$5.00 from last month and down \$19.00 from last year, came in at \$95.00 per ton. Other hay, at \$85.00 per ton, was down \$8.00 from last month and down \$21.00 from last year.

**UNITED STATES:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 133 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 6 points (4.3 percent) from January. The Crop Index is down 7 points (4.6 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received lower prices for corn, soybeans, lettuce, and eggs and higher prices for cattle, oranges, onions, and sweet corn. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 7 points (5.6 percent) from February 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 132, decreased 6 points (4.3 percent) from last month but increased 10 points (8.2 percent) from February 2009.

## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, FEBRUARY 2009, JANUARY 2010, AND FEBRUARY 15, 2010 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		FEB 2009	JAN 2010	FEB 15 2010	FEB 2009	JAN 2010	FEB 15 2010	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	41.50	46.60	50.40	43.60	47.90	50.50	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	94.00	102.00	100.00	83.80	87.50	89.40	—
Calves	100#	114.00	117.00	123.00	104.00	109.00	111.00	31
Sheep	100#	32.40	49.60	47.40	31.40	52.40	1/	—
Lambs	100#	101.00	97.00	99.00	100.00	102.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2/	2/	2/	3.87	3.66	3.45	38
Oats	Bu.	2/	2/	2/	2.69	2.18	2.13	36
Feed Barley	Bu.	2/	2/	2/	2.63	2.64	2.49	—
All Wheat	Bu.	2/	2/	2/	5.79	4.92	4.67	32
Dry Beans	100#	2/	2/	2/	30.10	30.70	33.80	48
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	114.00	100.00	95.00	141.00	113.00	111.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	106.00	93.00	85.00	108.00	99.60	97.10	—

1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996. 2/ Insufficient sales

**NOTE:** Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.

## INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.

1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	FEB 2009	JAN 2010	FEB 15 2010	FEB 2009	JAN 2010	FEB 15 2010
<b>All Commodities</b>	117	125	120	126	139	133
<b>All Crops</b>	158	151	146	146	152	145
<b>All Livestock and Products</b>	111	119	115	109	122	122

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3 PERCENT

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on March 1, 2010. The inventory was 3 percent below March 1, 2009.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.67 million, 1 percent below 2009. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 520,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 460,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.72 million, 2 percent above 2009.

**Other disappearance** totaled 68,000 during February, 21 percent above 2009.

### CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAR 1, 2009-2010 1/

State	On Feed Mar 1, 2009	Place- ments Feb 2010	Market- ings Feb 2010	Other Disapp. Feb 2010	On Feed Mar 1, 2010	On Feed Feb 1, 2010
Thousand Head						
CO	1,040	160	175	5	940	960
KS	2,290	405	415	10	2,220	2,240
NE	2,330	365	370	15	2,350	2,370
TX	2,820	365	400	15	2,650	2,700
Oth Sts.	2,748	370	357	23	2,704	*2,714
U.S.	11,228	1,665	1,717	68	10,864	*10,984

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

\*Revised

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION ALL HIRED AG WORKER'S WAGE RATE UP FROM OCTOBER

The number of hired farm and ranch workers in the tri-state region during the week January 10-16, 2010 was up 1,000 (7 percent) from a year ago. During this period, 16,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. Of the 16,000 hired workers, 14,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 2,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 13,000 and 2,000 last year. The number of hired workers during the previous survey week October 11-17, 2009 was 25,000.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$11.24 per hour, up \$1.19 from October but \$0.26 down from January 2009. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$11.53 per hour compared with \$11.49 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$10.55 per hour compared with \$10.65 last year.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 40.0 unchanged from last January.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 767,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 10-16, 2010, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 587,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.06 per hour during the January 2010 reference week, up 13 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.14 per hour, up 18 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$10.26 per hour compared with \$10.27 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.19 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 37.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

### FARM WAGE RATES BY TYPE OF WORKER, REGIONS AND U.S., JANUARY 10-16, 2010 1/

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
	Dollars per hour			
Mntn I 2/	11.53	10.55	10.82	11.24
Mntn II 3/	10.74	11.30	11.04	11.73
No Plns 4/	12.32	10.14	11.35	11.71
U.S. 5/	10.14	10.26	10.19	11.06

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers  
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming  
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North &  
South Dakota  
5/ Excludes Alaska

## WYOMING HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 25 PERCENT

Honey production during 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 1.78 million pounds, down 25 percent from production in 2008. There were 37,000 bee colonies in Wyoming during 2009 with an average production of 48 pounds per colony. In 2008, there were 39,000 colonies averaging 61 pounds per colony.

Honey stocks in Wyoming on December 15, 2009 totaled 391,000 pounds, up 3 percent from December 15, 2008. The average price received by producers for honey sold in 2009 was 143 cents per pound, up from 137 cents in 2008. The total value of production was \$2.54 million, down 22 percent from 2008.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. Colonies which produced

honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested.

Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009 to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some 2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some revisions to the 2008 crop prices.



### HONEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 2008-2009

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 1/		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Lbs</i>		<i>1,000 Lbs</i>				<i>Cents</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
CO	27	28	45	53	1,215	1,484	656	326	151	140	1,835	2,078
ID	90	103	40	46	3,600	4,738	1,440	1,706	146	145	5,256	6,870
MT	134	146	70	70	9,380	10,220	4,596	3,577	137	145	12,851	14,819
NE	36	48	67	56	2,412	2,688	1,254	1,102	145	144	3,497	3,871
SD	225	270	95	66	21,375	17,820	11,970	6,237	134	139	28,643	24,770
UT	28	26	48	38	1,344	988	242	198	157	147	2,110	1,452
<b>WY</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>2,540</b>
U.S.	2,342	2,462	69.9	58.5	163,789	144,108	51,159	37,153	142.1	144.5	232,744	208,236

1/ Stocks held by producers, does not include stocks under loan.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service  
PO Box 1148  
Cheyenne WY 82003-1148

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for private use \$300

Presort Standard  
Postage and Fees Paid  
USDA  
Permit N. G-38

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

